1. International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.

2. Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of Inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.

3. Inter-State projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 hectare (ha) and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

The scheme of implementation of National Projects has come into effect from 26th February 2009 after issue of guidelines by the Ministry of Water Resources. The projects included under the National Projects category are expected to submit their funding requirements for year wise assessment of finances. So far, grant amounting to Rs.450 crore has been released to Gosikhurd National Projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme(AIBP). Distribution of water among the States is not governed under the scheme of National Projects.

Water Shortage

709. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of water bodies like ponds, lagoons, rivers, lakes and reservoirs in the country are drying up causing acute water shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government is taking or proposing to take to rejuvenate these water bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per the third Minor Irrigation Census 2001, 0.85 lakh out of 5.57 lakh tanks and storages in the country are not in use.

(c) The Government of India sanctioned a pilot scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies during X Plan with an outlay of Rs.300 crore. The Government has further approved a programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore for XI Plan. The programme covers all states of the country and aims at improvement of water bodies, improvement of catchment areas of tank commands, increase in storage capacity of water bodies, ground water recharge, improvement in agriculture and increased availability of drinking water.

Preparation for 35th National Games

710. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expense for the 35th National Games scheduled to be held in Kerala in May, 2010;